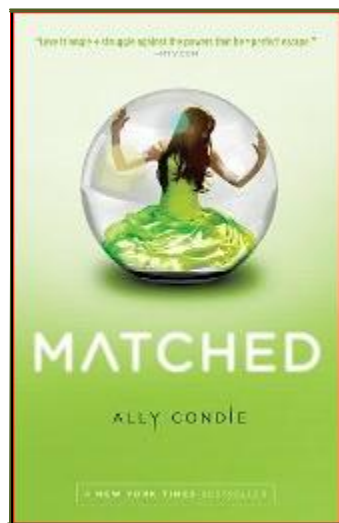


Book Reviews



Matched

By Ally Condie

This fabulous, fast-paced, futuristic young adult book, *Matched*, by Ally Condie, captures the reader's attention, not only from page one, but from the intriguing front-cover illustration of a young girl in a green dress who is trapped in a bubble. This book teaches the importance of agency, the freedom to make choices, by examining what happens to a young girl, Cassia, who lives in an "ideal" society where individuals are allowed to make few choices. They are told what and when to eat and what to wear, daily personal choices I like to make. Even big decisions such as selecting a career and "match" or "mate" are made for people. This story focuses on the "matching" process and the way it affects Cassia's life. On the night of Cassia's matching banquet, she goes home and looks at the microchip of her "match." The image of the wrong boy shows up. This leads Cassia to question her society and the "choices" it makes for its people. Disobedience to what the society chooses for an individual can be disastrous, so Cassia has some decisions to make in this society that doesn't allow personal choices. I recommend this rapid-paced, enjoyable book because it causes readers to reflect on the blessing of personal decision making in their own lives and ponder how life might be different without it. Read this book to find out what happens when Cassia makes some decisions that put her future in jeopardy.